

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

July 13, 1981

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POLAND: On the Eve of the Congress

Last-minute lobbying and organizational efforts by liberals and conservatives point to heated debates at the party congress opening tomorrow. [REDACTED]

A liberal group, named "Experience and the Future," met on Friday and later issued a statement calling for continuation of reform and expressing concern over the growing strength of the ultraconservatives. Representatives of many of the small ultraconservative groups throughout Poland met under the auspices of the Katowice party forum on Saturday and decided on a plan of action, including the issuance of an open letter to the delegates. [REDACTED]

Such pressure from the extremes will make it easier for party chief Kania to seize the middle ground and place the congress on a moderate course. [REDACTED]

Labor Tensions

There probably will be scattered labor disturbances during the congress, focusing primarily on local issues and pursued by people who generally consider the congress an irrelevant event. Baltic dockworkers apparently have not abandoned plans to begin an open-ended strike tomorrow. [REDACTED]

The Solidarity chapter in a small town outside Warsaw has threatened a two-hour transport strike today and a "march against hunger" on Wednesday if food supplies are not improved. There are rumors of similar strikes elsewhere in the country. [REDACTED]

The chronic shortage of food is becoming a serious source of tension. Many Poles believe that the Kania regime is holding back food from the market, even though Solidarity leader Walesa has refuted the rumor. [REDACTED]

The announcement yesterday that meat rationing has been extended until 31 October will add to the general sense of frustration among the Polish people. The government cannot win. Diversion of limited food supplies to meet demand in one locality would appear to vindicate suspicions of government hoarding in that area while increasing deprivation and the incentive for unrest elsewhere in the country. [REDACTED]

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